countries for a residual share of 3000 tons provided for "other countries or areas" under the US Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) regime.

(c) and (d) No representation has so far been received from farmers in this regard. However, keeping in view farmer's interests, Government has taken up with the US Government, the issue of allocating a separate quota for import of Indian tobacco or enhancing the residual quota available for "other countries" under the US TRQ regime.

Wheat import by STC

732. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of wheat imported by STC during the last three months, and how much expenditure, per ton, was incurred thereon; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a shipment of 50,000 tonnes of wheat, imported from Russia in September, 2006, was rejected by STC and if so, the details thereof and whether the wheat has since been returned to Russia, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Out of a total contracted quantity of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat, during the last three months (from 20.8.2006 to 20.11.2006), approximately 25.95 lakh tonnes of wheat has arrived. Weighted average price for the total purchase of wheat is US$205.37 per tonne.

(b) A quantity of 49566.565 tonnes of Russian origin wheat from vessel MV Astron Spirit did not meet the permissible limit of foreign matter as per the report given by Central Food Laboratory, Mysore. Subsequently STC informed supplier M/s. Agrico Trade Finance SA Switzerland on 11.9.06 that since the wheat cargo shipped *via* vessel MV Astron Spirit did not meet the permissible limit of foreign matter in terms of contract, therefore, the cargo was not acceptable and that the vessel could not be allowed to berth and discharge the cargo in India. Supplier has since arranged to sell the cargo elsewhere India.